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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANTS : Hubbell, et al.  
SERIAL NO. : 09/644,121  
FILED : August 23, 2000  
FOR : Novel Polymer Compounds  
ART UNIT : 1713  
EXAMINER : Bernard Libman

OK to Center  
B. Libman  
3-31-04

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop After Final Amendment  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Amendment/Response to Office Action

S I R :

In response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following arguments in determining the patentability of claims 1-6 in the instant application. After review, no claims have been amended to place the present application in condition for allowance.

The following claims are in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a pre-formed, hydrolytically susceptible non-addition polyanionic polymer comprising polymer strands formed from at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer, wherein the polymer strands are linked by at least one linking moiety comprising a hydrolytically susceptible bond formed with a multidentate compound comprising two or more ethylenically unsaturated moieties, each such moiety being linked to the multidentate compound through a hydrolytically susceptible bond, wherein at least one of which monomers has:

- i) one ~~more~~ or more functional groups that can be titrated with base to form negatively charged functional groups, or
- ii). one or more precursor groups that are precursors of the functional groups that can be